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COUNTRY

Hungary

SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT NO.

TOPIC 1. Guard Battalion of the Ministry of National Defense in Budapest

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2. Military Quarters and Offices in Budapest.

DATE PREPARED 20 December 1951

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

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REMARKS

Guard Battalion of the Ministry of National Defense in Budapest.

1. Prior to 5 March 1951, the guard battalion of the Ministry of National Defense (Honvedelmi minisztérium oerzaszloalja) was quartered in the Bem Jozsef Barracks which faces the west side of Bem Square, formerly Palffy Square, and is bounded by Bem Jozsef Street, Toelgyfa Street and Palffy Street. The battalion [redacted] Budapest-114 and was assigned directly to the Ministry of National Defense. Officers of the battalion included Major Adorjan, (fnu), commanding officer, about 36 years old, a former lathe operator; Major Lanyi (fnu), political officer, about 42 years old; and Captain (Med) Friss (fnu), medical officer, about 40 years old. \*
2. The battalion was organized into the headquarters, 3 rifle companies and 1 machine gun company. Each rifle company was organized into 1 submachine gun platoon with 3 squads and 2 rifle platoons with 3 squads each. The machine gun company was organized into 3 platoons with 3 squads each. Each squad was armed with 2 Maxim machine guns. [redacted] The battalion totaled about 24 officers and about 500 EM. Most of the EM were of the 1927 and 1928 classes, and a few were of other classes between 1924 and 1930.
3. The battalion was armed with infantry weapons including model M-48 Maxim 7.62-mm machine guns. It was equipped with 5 trucks for raiding parties, 2 weapon carriers and 1 sedan. No regular training was conducted. Firing practice was held at the firing range at Nagyteteny (Q 48/H 41).
4. The battalion maintained very strict discipline. About 60 percent of its personnel were convinced Communists. Soldiers, whose political reliability was not proved, were reassigned to other units after a short time. Very often the political classes were conducted by EM who had previously attended various political courses rather than by the political officer. Punishments inflicted for military offenses or desertion were very severe. For example, two soldiers who deserted, with their weapons, in the direction of the Yugoslav border, were sentenced to death by hanging. In another case, a soldier who deserted, without weapons, was sentenced to 5 years of penal servitude. A soldier of the guard battalion who had smuggled letters of a prisoner treated at the Central Military Hospital was sentenced to two and one-half years in jail.

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5. The missions of the battalion included stand-by duty, guard duty and escorting the Minister of National Defense. When traveling in Hungary, the minister was escorted by a detachment of 33 soldiers of the battalion riding in two raiding trucks (Ueberfallwagen) with one of them driving ahead of, and the other behind, the minister's car. [REDACTED] Military installations and offices in Budapest, which were continuously guarded by personnel of the battalion, included the Ministry of National Defense, the Central Military Prison, the Zalka Mate Barracks, the Voeroes Csillag printing office, one section of the Central Military Hospital, and their own barracks installation. \*\*

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Military Offices and Quarters in Budapest.

6. [REDACTED] Soviet advisers were attached to the individual sections of the Ministry of National Defense. [REDACTED] the number of Soviet officers in the ministry at 25 to 30. Three or four of these officers were general officers. Of the Hungarian officers in the ministry, [REDACTED] Major General Uszta (fnu), 32 years old, who had been a partisan commander during World War II.
7. [REDACTED] Lieutenant General Istvan Batta, Chief of Hungarian General Staff, in the [REDACTED] where prisoners confined were kept. Prisoners said that Lieutenant [REDACTED] executed at the end of 1950. The billeting area of [REDACTED] comprised the actual prison under the command of [REDACTED] years old; the Central Military Court, where Lieutenant Colonel Cibor (fnu) served as a judge; and, entirely separated from the other buildings, an AVH section for prisoners on remand. \*\*\*
8. A so-called intelligence section was located in the Zalka Mate Barracks on the east side of Bartok Bela Street. The duty officer for this installation was always provided by this intelligence section. AVH officers were never observed serving as duty officers. Many officers of the security section wore civilian clothes. The guard detail to be furnished for this installation consisted of 1 officer and 12 soldiers.
9. The so-called Voeroes Csillag printing office east of the Ministry of National Defense and bordered by Bajcsy Street, Klotild Street, Zsitvay Street, and Marko Street was to be furnished with a guard detail of 1 officer and 13 soldiers. It was the printing office of the armed forces and printed all military manuals, publications and the newspapers Nephadsereg and Bajtars. The printing presses were on the first and second floors of the wing on Klotild Street. Many officers were employed at the printing office.
10. The ward of the Central Military Hospital on the northeast side of Robert Karoly Ring, where sick prisoners from the Central Military Prison were kept, was furnished by the guard battalion with a guard detail of 1 officer and 3 FM.

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\*\* [REDACTED] Comment. The Ministry of National Defense was located at 28/30 Honved

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4. Major General Uszta [REDACTED] regiment in Esztergom in July. Istvan Batta is carried as Chief of Staff mentioned in Hungarian news reports in Budapest. He succeeded Lieutenant General [REDACTED] press reports, was arrested in June 1950.

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